II. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

A) Please amend the Title at page 1, lines 1-2; and page 37, lines 1-2 as follows:

AUTOMOTIVE INFORMATION COMMUNICATION EXCHANGE SYSTEM,

~~AND~~ METHOD, AND PROGRAM PRODUCT

B) Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 2 as follows:

The present invention addresses the needs of the automotive marketplace by providing a system, ~~and~~ method, and program product for exchanging automotive information between at least two automotive trading partners engaged in an automotive transaction. Specifically, the system of the present invention can receive, manage, translate (if necessary) and route messages or transaction elements between trading partners. This avoids the automotive trading partners from having to obtain or adopt the communication systems of other trading partners and from having to input data multiple times. As used herein, a transaction element refers to any element of a transaction (e.g., a message) between trading partners such as an inquiry, an offer, a response, or a confirmation.

C) Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 as follows:

Therefore, the present invention provides a system, ~~and~~ method, and program product for exchanging automotive information between at least two automotive trading partners engaged in

an automotive transaction. The system, and method, and program product of the present invention alleviate the problems associated with multiple communication schemas between the trading partners.

D)   Please amend the abstract as follows. A clean copy of the abstract appears on the following page.

Abstract

A system, and method, and program product are provided for communicating information between automotive trading partners engaged in an automotive transaction. The system, and method, and program product allow automotive trading partners to communicate with each other without having to obtain the communication system of other trading partners or modify their existing communication systems. In particular, the system, and method, and program product include, among other things, a universal schema for a plurality of automotive applications, a routing system for routing transaction elements between the trading partners, and a transaction management system for managing the transaction elements.